THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) No such technology has been developed by the said Scientist of National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Post-Earthquake tremors in Latur

1528. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) how many times tremors—both mild and severe—were recorded in the region after the recent devastating earthquake in Latur (Maharashtra);

(b) whether any loss of life and property was caused as a consequence thereof; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY(SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) A total of 173 aftershocks have been recorded in Latur till 22-2-94 by temporary Seismic network established in the region soon after the earthquake. Out of them, 171 were mild and 2 were of moderate strength. There was no severe earthquake.

(b) and (c) According to Press Reports only one person died due to stampede caused by panic.

Raising investments in the field of Science and technology

1529. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Science Congress Association has urged Government to raise the investment in the field of Science and Technology;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are laging behind in the field of science and technology; and

(d) what other steps Government propose to take to come forward in the fields of science nd technology ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI). (a) to (d) The Indian Science Congress was held in Jaipur between 3—8 January, 1994 under the auspices of the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA). The recommendations of the Science Congress Sessions are presently at the drafting stage and have not yet been received by the Government of India as per the normal practice, ISCA sends the final recommendations to the Government which, in turn, further process them through the Inter-ministerial Task Force constituted for the purpose for taking appropriate action by the concerned Departments/Agencies.

The salient aspects of the action taken by Government are also reported in the next Session of the Science Congress through the release of the Task Force Report followed by a Session thereon.

Underground Nuclear Explosion behind Latur earthquake

1530. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to scientific study conducted by a group of scientists, the recent earthquake in Latur (Maharashtra) was due to an underground nuclear explosion;

(b) if so what are the details of the study conducted by the scientists stating the base of which the conclusion has been arrived at;

(c) what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to predict earthquake ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) According to Press Reports, scientists from Delhi and Shivaji Universities have made this conclusion from their studies.